

Clinical Laboratory Update

August 2021

www.milwaukee.gov/healthlab

Phone: (414) 286-3526

Fax: (414) 286-5098

From the desk of the Public Health Laboratory Director

MHDL celebrating Public Health Laboratory Appreciation Month

The MHD Laboratory, along with fellow public health laboratory professionals nationwide, is taking time out during the month of September to celebrate its staff in honor of the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL)'s Public Health Laboratory Appreciation Month. At this time, MHDL would like to recognize our employees for the important work they do behind the scenes to keep the local community safe from public health threats. MHDL works diligently to support local public health systems in collaboration with other MHD divisions by providing a variety of clinical and environmental testing, along with reference lab testing services, real-time disease surveillance and other public health and emergency response. We would also like to invite our fellow partners to join us in celebrating the important role you all play in protecting and ensuring the health of our community, locally and beyond! In support of PHL Appreciation Month, APHL is sharing a variety of resources and information to help celebrate. Here are just a few stories you may find interesting:

- [Public Health Laboratories Can Play Important Health Equity Role](#)
- [Detecting, Sequencing and Monitoring SARS-CoV-2 Virus Variants](#)
- [20 Years of the Laboratory Response Network](#)

For more information on PHL Appreciation Month and ideas to celebrate, visit [APHL's website](#).

MHDL recruiting for Management Trainee

The City of Milwaukee is currently recruiting recent college graduates for a [Management Trainee position](#) at MHDL. The Management Trainee is responsible for assisting the MHD Leadership in managing the administration of multiple operational, technical and grant-funded projects, as well as documenting program metrics and tracking demonstrable objectives and deliverables that impact Laboratory performance and outcomes. Qualified candidates can apply at <https://city.milwaukee.gov/DER/jobs> through **Thursday, September 23, 2021.**

Sexually Transmitted Infections

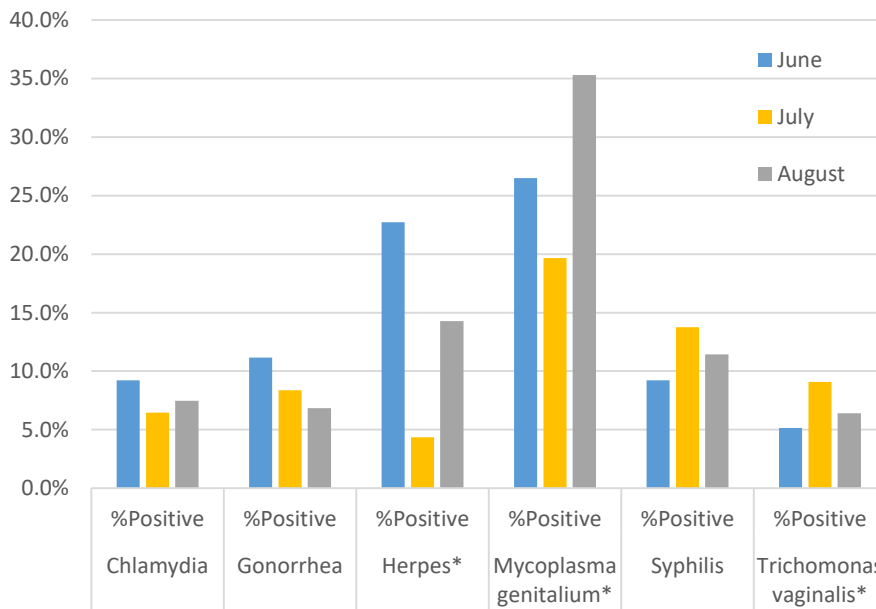


Figure 1: Percent positivity for specimens screened using molecular or serological assays for the given organism.

*Not reportable as per WI DHS 145.04 (3) (a)

Respiratory Infections

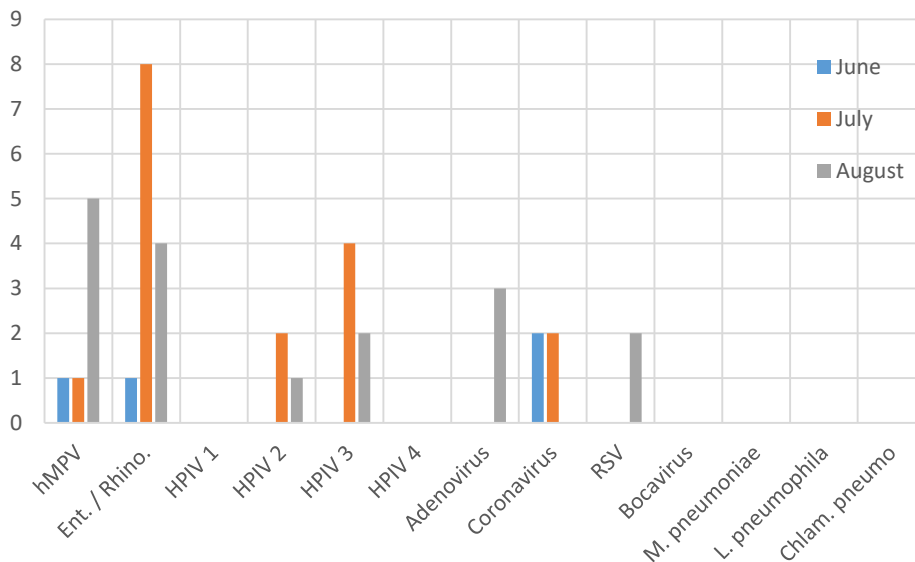


Figure 2: Respiratory pathogens detected using a Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP) and/or RT-PCR Influenza assay.

Connect with your health department:



Links to related information & data:

[MHDL COVID-19 Testing website](#)

[MHD COVID-19 Situation](#)

[WSLH Laboratory Surveillance Report](#)

New HIV Infections

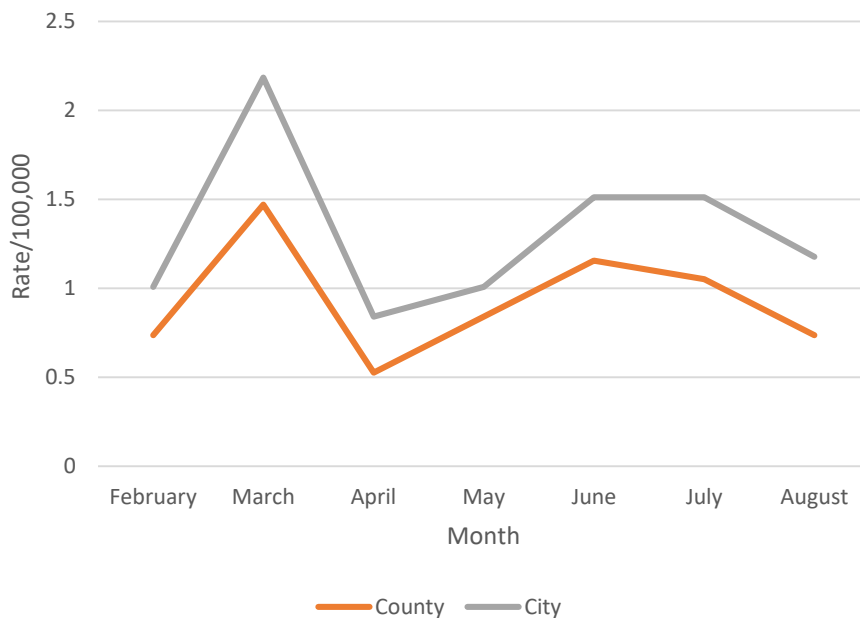


Figure 3: Monthly comparison of rate of new HIV infections in Milwaukee County and the City of Milwaukee, using data obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Numbers are provisional and subject to change.

For statewide HIV data, visit:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hiv/data.htm>

Syphilis Surveillance

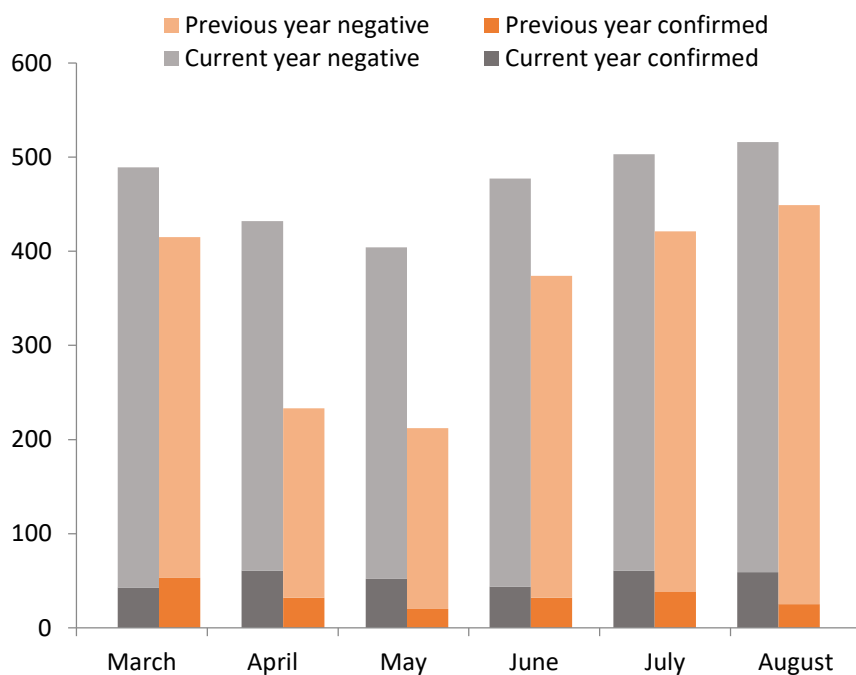


Figure 4: Monthly comparison of syphilis data with year over year comparisons.

Number of specimens screened at MHDL, darker bars represent confirmed tests.

Gonorrhea Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

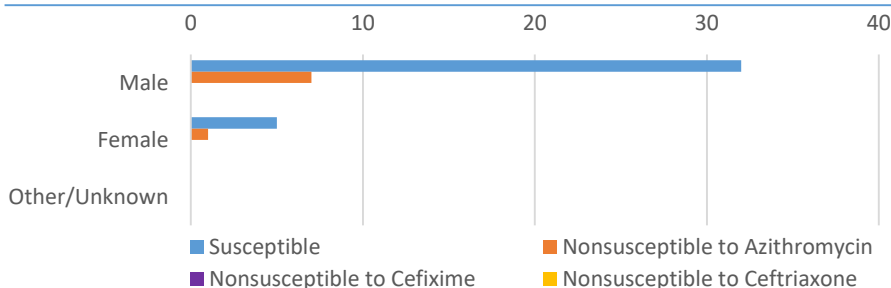


Figure 5: Antibiotic susceptibility profile of Gonorrhea isolates identified in males and females. In August 2021, 8 of 45 cultures tested were found to be nonsusceptible to Azithromycin according to CLSI guidelines. MHDL tests for antibiotic resistance to Azithromycin, Ceftriaxone, Cefixime and Gentamicin.

Sexually Transmitted Infections by Source

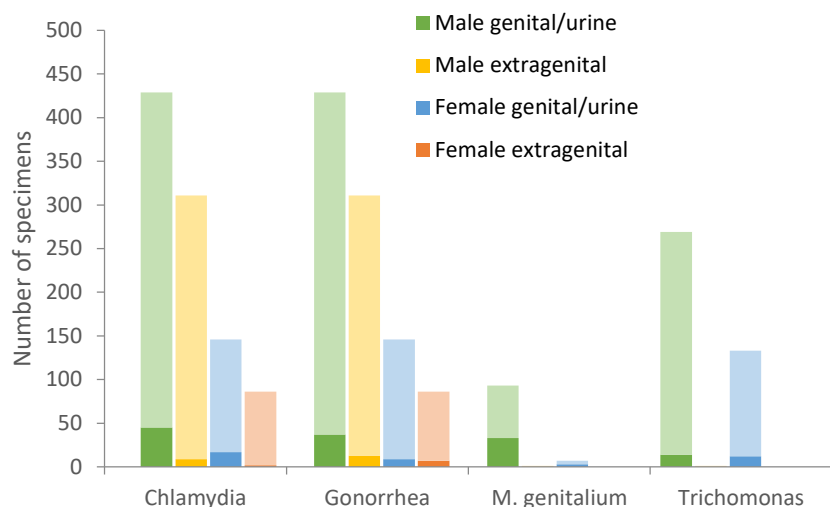


Figure 6: Distribution of STIs detected using NAAT. In August 2021 7.3% of male and 8.2% of female specimens screened were positive for Chlamydia. 6.8% of male and 6.9% of female specimens were positive for Gonorrhea. 35.1% of male and 3 of the 7 female specimens were positive for *M. genitalium*. 5.2% of male specimens and 9.0% of female specimens were positive for *Trichomonas*.

Note: Darker bars indicate positive specimens.

Viral Surveillance

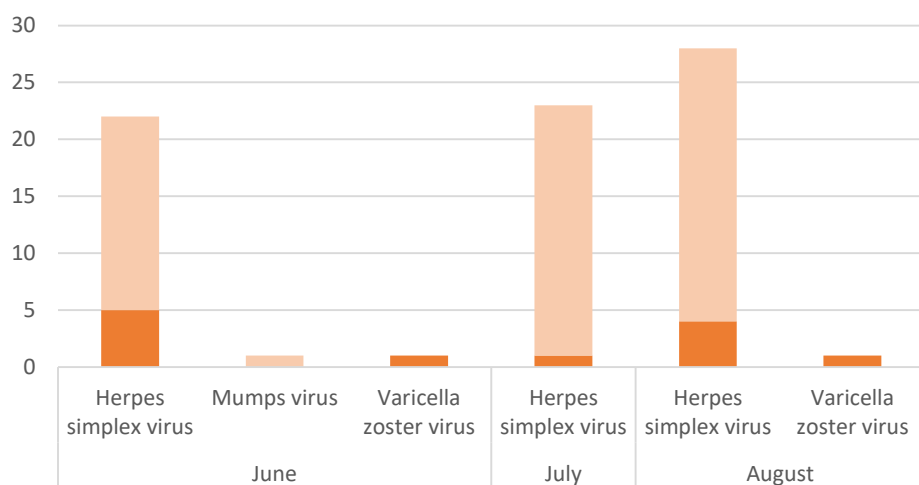


Figure 7: Specimens tested using molecular methods.

Note: Height of bar indicates number of specimens tested.

Darker bars indicate DNA/RNA detected by virus culture, real-time PCR and/or nucleotide sequencing analysis.

Legionella Testing

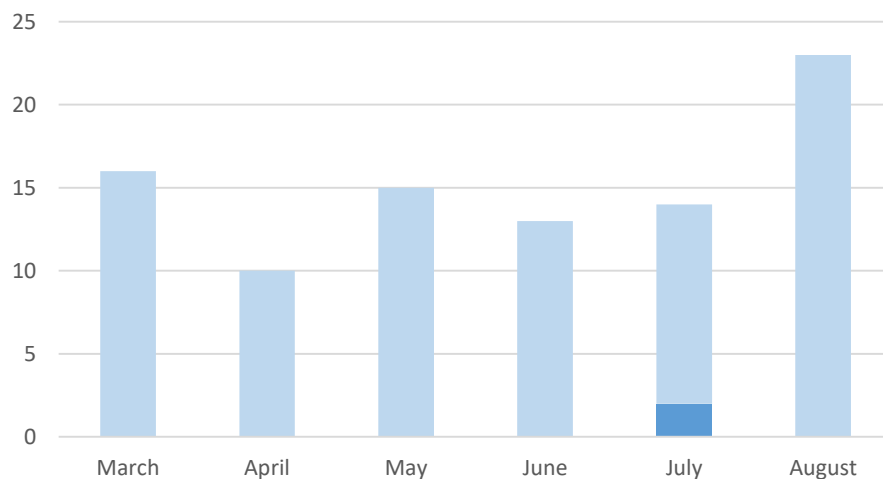


Figure 8: Clinical specimens tested using culture and molecular methods.

*MHDL is one of the **CDC ELITE** certified sites for environmental *Legionella* testing. See the Winter 2019 issue of the [APHL Bridges newsletter](#) for more information.

Note: Darker bars indicate confirmed Legionella pneumophila by culture and/or real-time PCR.